

Attendees: Ratna Cary, Liz Corbin, Maria Islam, Maria Manzie, Judy "from the Embassy", Star Faruque, Rima Khan, Sharlene Meisner, Juditha Ohlmacher, Melanie Rubenstein, and Lori Walsh.

Meeting called into order at 1:00 p.m.

Ø Caroling at the Ambassador's:

- § All agreed to hold it December 16, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- § Lori reported that it was the Embassy who in the past has printed the invitations, with RSVP to the Embassy.
- § Maria Manzie will verify and look for a sample copy.
- § Maria Manzie will have invitations printed and mailed to Embassy employees.
- § Juditha would give her a list of DAWC Membership so that invitations would not be duplicated. If possible Maria Manzie could also mail invitations to the remainder of the DAWC Members.
- § Maria Manzie has already made arrangements with Simona Popova , the AIS/D Music Director, to lead the caroling.
- § The Ambassador has OK'd having the caroling inside her house, because the piano is a baby grand and cannot be moved. However, this means caroling will have to be done first, and then everyone will move outside for food, a reverse of the traditional order.
- § Maria Manzie will order 100 chairs.
- § All Members will be asked to bring food (both veg and non-veg are welcome), and a gift for needy children.
- § Ratna says she has 3 sets of Santa suits which she has sent for dry-cleaning. [Who will be Santa? Ratna's husband? Gene George?]

Ø Decorators:

- § Normally the Embassy doesn't care who we use, however if the event is going to be on US Government property, then the vendors need to be vetted by the Embassy, including names, car license plates, etc. They need at least 7 days advance warning, but more time is obviously is better.
- § Banani Decorators has become too expensive; Liz says that City Decorators is much better priced and she will pursue them.

Liz reported she will be gone December 7-16.

Ø Pearl Sale:

- § Ratna reported that the Pearl sale had netted Tk. 30,800.
- § She said Supi George who organized the event would like us to send a letter of thanks from the DAWC to the New Pearls Museum. We will also send a letter of thanks to Supi.
- § Supi also has an application from the Bright Star Sewing Project to be considered for charities.
- § Ratna then announced that the WVA (Women's Volunteer Association) has cancelled its December 8th Winter Mina Bazaar and plans to shift it to February. It was suggested that if Ratna has any contacts with them could she ask them to plan around our Feb 2 Spring Bazaar and the ISD's Feb 9 Bazaar.

Ø Rickshaw Caroling:

- § A discussion of security issues ensued: Maria Manzie said that the Embassy has issued a "Transportation Policy" which says that for safety reasons, employees may not ride in Rickshaws or CNGs. She said she tried to explain that this event

only takes place between a few houses within Gulshan 2, but to no avail. She also reported that nowadays the Police are resisting Embassy requests for security because of the situation and they may be stretched thin.

- § Lori reported that she had spoken with her family contacts who advised against asking the Police. She also reported that she had spoken with Betsy who said that the Ambassador is afraid of bad publicity, for example if there were an incident in the city and the press got wind of the fact that the police were being used for Americans of any sort, then it would reflect badly on all Americans, including the Embassy.
- § Star said she would still go, but others said they wouldn't.
- § Lori suggested doing instead a Bonfire party at the ARA, with marshmallow roasting, caroling, and mulled wine, the same night as the Rickshaw Caroling.
- § A vote was taken to cancel the Rickshaw Caroling and hold a Bonfire instead. The vote in favor of change was carried unanimously.
- § Maria Manzie said she would publicize in Jute as soon as the final info was given to her.

Ø Bonfire Details:

- § As Liz had just organized a bonfire for the Cub Scouts a few days ago, she gave many helpful suggestions, including:
 - Have a speaker set for caroling. Lori said she had one she could bring.
 - Order 2 sheet pizzas (\$35 each), one pepperoni, one cheese (est 50 people)
 - Order hot chocolate and Cool Aid
 - Get popcorn donated by the ARA
 - Ask Jahangir to put up extra lights in that area
 - Have one person lead the singing. Ratna has the caroling books.
 - Get Jahangir to make long sticks for marshmallow roasting.
 - ARA will do the mulled wine and make the bonfire.
- § Rima will do ARA logistics, including ordering food (Gilbert) and the bonfire/lights (Jahangir).
- § Juditha asked how this event would be distinguished from the Children's Party and the Caroling at the Ambassador's. It was said that this would be for older kids but be more casual than the Ambassador's.
- § It was decided to hold it at the ARA, from 6-8 pm, with no charge. Would be for DAWC, ARA, and AIS/D only.
- § Estimated Costs:
 - 2 pizzas, hot chocolate, cool aid (est 50 people) \$98, plus cost for wood and mulled wine. Popcorn will probably be donated by ARA, have to ask Gilbert.
 - Marshmallows would have to be ordered from the Commissary. Ratna said she would do.

Ø Chocolate and Champagne Party:

- § Juditha is still OK with hosting this party on Feb 9.
- § Melanie suggested getting a "Chocolate Fountain" since this party was going to be an annual event. She said she would purchase one, and it should be about \$20.
- § This will be an adult party only.
- § Maria Islam said was traditionally free of charge, but BYOB and BYO Chocolate.
- § Juditha suggested getting starter Champagne and Chocolate.
- § It was agreed that it would be 1 DAWC Member + 1 Guest.
- § Maria Manzie suggested doing a blind chocolate tasting and giving a prize. All loved the idea.
- § Ratna would be going to Seattle and could get very good chocolate, but asked what is the budget. Maria suggested \$200, but others thought \$250 would be better. That would include Chocolate, Champagne, and Chocolate Fountain, as well as other expenses.

Ø River Cruise:

- § Due to the security situation, as well the proximity of the Spring Bazaar, Liz suggested shifting this to late March.
- § Juditha reminded her that the Family Picnic is on already on March 23.
- § Liz thought at first that late March was best because of the heat, however possibly early April would be fine, as the boat is Air-Conditioned so weather would not be an issue.
- § Liz reported that the boat belongs to Hotel Sarina, and the dining room holds 60 people. Dinner is Tk 500/person (Sarina's cost – we would have to charge more), and if we had 40 people they would take the boat out onto the river.
- § Maria Manzie said the event should be on a Friday or Saturday. All agreed.
- § It was suggested to sell tickets for this at the Spring Charity Bazaar.
- § Liz reported that there is a bar on the boat, but didn't know if there was an extra charge.
- § Maria Manzie she would publicize in the Jute.

Maria Manzie suggested that we email a copy of events schedule to Teri Selmsler.

Ø General Meeting:

- § Lori suggested holding a General Meeting open to all DAWC members. All agreed.
- § It was decided to have it in mid-January since many people would be gone on vacation until then.

Ø Spring Charity Bazaar Raffle Tickets:

- § It was suggested to sell Spring Charity raffle tickets in advance at the Bonfire and Ambassador's Caroling.
- § BWA (British Women's Association) had been in charge of printing raffle tickets in the previous years; it is not known which printer they used.
- § We must get them printed ASAP to be ready by the 14th. It was thought best to use new printers who would be cheaper.
- § One side has the number, and a space for name, email, and phone, the other side (perforated), has the number.
- § Liz said she would ask Jahangir or Teri and know by Monday.

Maria Manzie, Ratna Cary, and Judy from the Embassy then left the meeting.

Ø Children's Party:

- § Sharlene arrived and reported on the Children's Christmas Party which will be December 9, from 10-12, up to age 10, at the ARA.
- § It will have: Face Painting, Cookie Decorating, and 2 crafts: making wreaths and "snowflake window pictures."
- § Sara is bringing 4 others and the girl scouts to help with crafts and face painting.
- § Mr. Schuster (sp?), Elementary PE teacher, will do basketball with the kids.
- § Crafts will end at 11:30 and caroling, with a guitar for accompaniment, will begin under the tree.
- § Kids will get simple goodie bags.
- § Pigs-in-a-blanket would be provided for snacks, and popcorn would be donated by the ARA.
- § Santa Claus will be in the Bougainvillea Room. Mr. Meisner will be Santa.
- § Sharlene was informed that Ratna has the Santa costumes. Lori gave Sharlene Ratna's contact information.
- § The entrance fee will be Tk 200/kid – any kid, DAWC or not.
- § Sharlene said she has enough people helping out, but asked Maria Islam to help out at the front desk.

Ø Cookbook:

- § Melanie has not received many new recipes however she has gotten permission from the UNWA (United Nations Women's Association) to us their old cookbook under our name, with an acknowledgement.
- § Melanie will combine the old DAWC and old UNWA Cookbooks, update them, and do a new translation.

Meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Juditha Ohlmacher
Secretary